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Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

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COMMEMORATING THE LIBERATION OF AUSCHWITZ — 75 YEARS LATER

Steve Mellon/Post-Gazette

To commemorate the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz on Monday, four eighth grade students at Community Day School in Squirrel Hill light candles at the Holocaust sculpture on the school's campus. From left are Katelynn Lieber, Jenny Jackson, Noam Pishoto and Akiva Weinkle. The sculpture, officially called the Gary and Nancy Tuckfelt Keeping Tabs: A Holocaust Sculpture, is made of 960 glass blocks filled with 6 million aluminum pop tabs, each one representing a life lost during the Holocaust.

Call for witnesses in Senate grows

Trump defense team targets Hunter Biden

By Daniel Moore
Post-Gazette Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Hours after a bombshell report led some Republican senators, including Pennsylvania Sen. Pat Toomey, to consider a deal for witnesses in President Donald Trump's Senate impeachment trial, the White House defense team on Monday turned their focus to Hunter Biden.

Mr. Trump's defense lawyers argued Mr. Biden defied longstanding conflict of interest and corruption concerns when he joined the board of Burisma, a Ukrainian energy firm, while his father, Vice President Joe Biden, pushed for the removal of a Ukrainian prosecutor investigating that company.

The lawyers sought to show senators that Mr. Trump's interest that Ukraine announce an investigation into Burisma for corruption was — rather than targeting the son of a political opponent — rooted in legitimate concerns.

"What was Hunter Biden doing at Burisma in exchange for millions of dollars?" asked Eric Herschmann, an attorney for Mr. Trump. "Nobody has ever investigated why."

Hunter Biden had few, if any, qualifications to oversee operations at an oil and gas firm, Mr. Herschmann added. "He did have one qualification: He was the son of the vice president of the United States," he said.

Monday's presentations were praised by many Senate Republicans who spoke with reporters during breaks in the trial. Yet the defense team's tactics added another wrinkle in a looming battle this week over whether to call witnesses and issue subpoenas for documents.

Support for witnesses grew after a report in The New York Times on Sunday. The Times reported a draft copy of an upcoming book from John Bolton, Mr. Trump's former national security adviser, stated the president froze nearly $400 million in military aid specifically to pressure Ukraine to dig up dirt on the Bidens.

Mr. Trump's hold on that military aid, along with delaying a coveted White House meeting,

SEE **TRIAL**, PAGE A-4

'Lest We Forget'

Exhibit of Holocaust survivors serves as stark reminder

By Abigail Mihaly
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

• Auschwitz survivors warn of rising anti-Semitism, **Page A-5.**

A Holocaust survivor from North Carolina once told photographer Luigi Toscano, "If we forget the past, we are damned to repeat it." Mr. Toscano has taken that message to heart.

This weekend, his "Lest We Forget" exhibit was installed in the United Nations in Geneva, where 100 larger-than-life portraits of Holocaust survivors fill the U.N. building and spill into the courtyard. Sixteen of the photographed survivors are Pittsburghers.

The exhibit — which made a stop in Pittsburgh in October and November to mark one year since the Tree of Life massacre — opened in Geneva on Friday. On Monday, government officials, survivors and members of the public gathered to admire the exhibition and to commemorate International Holocaust Remembrance Day and the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz by Soviet troops.

"[The photographs] show to the world that we are here, we are still alive," said Holocaust survivor Shulamit Bastacky, who was rescued and hidden by a Polish Catholic nun during the war. A portrait of Ms. Bastacky, a Squirrel Hill resident, is part of the exhibition.

Director of the Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh Lauren Bairnsfather said that every one of the speakers on Friday and Monday spoke of today's rising anti-Semitism, in addition to the Holocaust's history.

"The anti-Semitism is still the same, even more, than when Hitler came to power, especially in Europe," said Albert Sarhy, a survivor who was photographed for the project. Mr. Sarhy was one of the lucky ones — though he was forcibly moved to a ghetto in German-occupied Bulgaria,

SEE **EXHIBIT**, PAGE A-5

Coronavirus spreading in Wuhan, China, poses little risk here

By Sean D. Hamill
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Despite a rapidly rising number of cases and deaths in Wuhan, China — a sister city with Pittsburgh — from a newly identified coronavirus that appears to have jumped from snakes to humans there, and now five cases total confirmed in the United States, local, state and federal health officials say there is little concern for an outbreak in a region such as Pittsburgh.

The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said in an update on its website Monday that while "CDC considers this is a very serious public health threat, based on current information, the immediate health risk from [the coronavirus] to the general American public is considered low at this time.

• Stocks tumble as China virus fears spark sell-off, **Page B-5.**

"Nevertheless, CDC is taking proactive preparedness precautions."

Concern about the virus — dubbed the "2019 novel coronavirus," or "2019-nCoV" in CDC shorthand — rose over the weekend. The Chinese health minister said he believed a person infected with the virus could spread the disease before experiencing symptoms.

Dr. Nancy Messonnier, director of the CDC's national center for immunization and respiratory diseases, told reporters Monday there is not yet any clear evidence that people can infect others before they are symptomatic.

Still, Pittsburgh-area officials are on the watch.

SEE **VIRUS**, PAGE A-3

Some experts raised questions of whether chopper should have been cleared to fly

Bryant helicopter tried to climb to avoid clouds before crash

The Associated Press

CALABASAS, Calif. — The pilot of the helicopter that crashed into a hillside outside Los Angeles, killing former NBA superstar Kobe Bryant and eight others, told air traffic controllers in his last radio message that he was climbing to avoid a cloud layer, an accident investigator said Monday.

The pilot had asked for and received special clearance to fly in heavy fog just minutes before Sunday's crash and was flying at 1,400 feet when he went south and then west, said Jennifer Homendy of the National Transportation Safety Board, which went to the crash scene Monday to collect evidence.

• Even at 17, Kobe was impressive. **Page D-1.**

The pilot then asked for air traffic controllers to provide "flight following" aid but was told the craft was too low, Ms. Homendy said.

About four minutes later, "the pilot advised they were climbing to avoid a cloud layer," she said. "When ATC asked what the pilot planned to do, there was no reply. Radar data indicate the helicopter climbed to 2,300 feet and then began a left descending turn. Last radar contact was around 9:45 a.m.

SEE **BRYANT**, PAGE A-6

Andrew Rush/Post-Gazette

A billboard near Route 28 in Etna displays a tribute to Kobe Bryant on Monday.

Gondolas to work?

City parking agency could get new focus, mayor says

By Mark Belko
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Gondolas, autonomous vehicles and, yes, even bicycles — the Pittsburgh Parking Authority might get some new assignments if Mayor Bill Peduto can make it happen.

Mr. Peduto floated a plan Monday to turn the Pittsburgh Parking Authority into the "Pittsburgh Mobility Authority," tasked with the mission of finding unconventional ways of moving people in the 21st-century Steel City.

• Downtown Partnership holds public workshop on mobility plan, **Page B-1.**

"It's not about parking cars. But it's about marinas along the North Shore. It's about a gondola system that allows us to get from different areas because of our topography in the most effective, efficient and practical way," he said. "It's about the use of driverless vehicles that run on electricity that are part of

SEE **TRANSIT**, PAGE A-6

Weather
Cloudy with a flurry.
Daytime high, 35;
tonight's low, 23.
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